

**Statistic:** Iowa Unemployment Claims

**Analysis:**

Over the last 12 months, the number of Iowans receiving their first unemployment payment for the benefit year totaled 88,566 (blue line), a number that is similar to the lowest level of the post-recovery period after the 2001 U.S. recession. There has been very little change in the 12-month total over the past 11 months, indicating a stable labor situation. The December 2016 first payment number was 11,198, a number that is 1,872 below the previous December.

Over the past 12 months, the number of Iowans receiving their final unemployment payment (exhaustion of benefit eligibility) totaled 22,870 (red line). After the 2001 recession, the annual total of final payments dipped below 22,000. At 1,824, the December 2016 reading was below the final payment number for last December (2,502).

Both statistics posted decreases for December, and overall levels are low and have been for the past two years. The numbers continue to indicate the Iowa economy remains strong and, in most instances, a lack of qualified employees is likely a bigger issue than the lack of available jobs.

Additional information can be found on the Legislative Services Agency's Economic Trends webpage at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/fiscal/economicTrends>. The webpage includes links to source sites and the underlying data for each Economic Trends indicator.

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